

REMARKS

Summary of the Examiner's Actions

The examiner rejected 1-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for undue multiplicity in which the number of claims of varying scope to the same invention renders the issues confusing. Assignee acknowledges the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph

The examiner rejected 1-51 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph.

Claims 1-51 are rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, for undue multiplicity in which the number of claims of varying scope to the same invention renders the issues confusing. This rejection of claims of varying scope will be withdrawn upon cancellation of all the claims other than the claims selected. These claims may be rewritten and renumbered to be consecutive in order of examination.

Selection of no more than three independent claims with up to seven dependent claims depending from each is required.

As originally filed, this application has 51 claims, with 3 independent claims. All of these claims are directed to a single, simple device, namely a folding knife. The examiner acknowledges that Applicant needs and deserves to be able to draft claims of varying scope to afford him the best protection. However, 51 claims all directed to one device, each claim with its own shades of meaning and possible interpretations, create too much chance for confusion and error. If 51 claims are examined, it is deemed that the examiner and later, the public, will have a high chance of confusion and error. Furthermore, the concept of a folding knife does not warrant 51 claims. Such a concept could be covered with significantly less claims. The examiner deems that 3 independent claims, and up to 7 dependent claims on each would more than suffice to cover this concept. See MPEP 2173.05(n).

In view of the examiner's requirement, Claims 2, 4, 6-8, 13-17, 24, 26-28, 31, 34-38 and 42 have each been withdrawn. Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 11 and 12, with Claims 11 and 12 being cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 30 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 32 and 33,

with Claims 32 and 33 being cancelled, without prejudice. Claim 44 has been amended to include the limitations of Claims 46 and 47, with Claims 46 and 47 being cancelled, without prejudice.

It is respectfully submitted that Claims 1, 21 and 41 are each generic claims, and that each is allowable. Accordingly, upon the indication of allowability of each of these claims, it is respectfully requested that the respective withdrawn claims depending from each be reentered and allowed.

In view of the withdrawal and cancellation of claims as indicated, there remain three (3) independent claims, with seven (7) dependent claims depending from each. Accordingly, the examiner's rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, have been traversed.

Miscellaneous Amendments to the Claims

In reviewing the claims in response to the examiner's requirement, it was noted that several typographical errors were made in crafting the claims. Accordingly, Claim 23 has been amended to depend from Claim 21 and not Claim 22. Claims 31 and 45 have each been amended to change "connect" to read --connected--. It is respectfully submitted that each of these amendments is typographical in nature only.

Summary

In view of the amendment of Claims 10, 30, 31, 44 and 45, the withdrawal of Claims 2, 4, 6-8, 13-17, 24, 26-28, 31, 34-38 and 42, and the cancellation of Claims 11, 12, 32, 33, 46 and 47, without prejudice, it is believed that the above-identified patent application is in a condition for the issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Such action by the examiner is respectfully requested. If, however, the examiner is of the opinion that any of the drawings or other portions of the application are still not allowable, it will be appreciated if the examiner will telephone the undersigned to expedite the prosecution of the application.

Please charge any additional fees associated with this communication, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 16-1910 (30170.00).

Respectfully submitted,

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